

# COMMANDER'S HATCH

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## Training the Mounted Force in Transition

The theme of the last TRADOC Commander's Conference at Fort Sill, OK was "Training the Force in Transition." We here at the Armor Center recommended this theme because training is our highest priority, training soldiers, leaders, and units to be successful on the battlefield and in any other mission they are asked to accomplish. Without tough, battle-focused training, no technology we acquire, no organization we develop, and no soldiers we enlist can be successful. Training is indeed the glue that holds this Army, particularly the Armor and Cavalry Force, together. We at the Armor Center have not forgotten that, and we are doing several things to ensure that our armor and cavalry units get the benefit of top-notch training as we modernize and change to enter the 21st Century.

Within the last year we have established the Directorate of Training and Doctrine Development. This new directorate — focused on the armor and cavalry units in the field — is responsible for writing all armor and cavalry doctrine and for doing all the task analysis for that doctrine and for new equipment. DTDD must then determine what we must train in armor and cavalry units. They are also charged with developing training devices and training support packages for our forces, and synchronizing training development with doctrine through the writing

of the Soldier's Manuals and Mission Training Plans that we use to train armor and cavalry soldiers, leaders, and units in the field.

To make our doctrine more accessible to units in the field, we have established the Armor and Cavalry Doctrine Home Page on the Internet. Armor and cavalry soldiers, leaders, and units all around the world can get instant access to all of our mounted force doctrine through this web site. Additionally, they can comment on that doctrine directly with the authors who wrote it through electronic mail. That is extremely important to us at the Home of Armor and Cavalry. We want your good ideas and suggestions so we can improve our doctrine and training development efforts. Using our web site is an easy way to do that. Of course, good, old-fashioned letters and calls are always welcome too.

Over 10 years ago, the Armor Center became the home of the largest and most complete military virtual reality training facility in the world with the establishment of SIMNET. Now armor and cavalry units, from platoon to battalion task force, come here nearly every week of the year to train in this virtual training program on a variety of missions with an in-place and highly trained team of observer-controllers. While we cannot replace all training in

the field, the training in the Virtual Training Program is structured, based in doctrine, and focused on the execution of armor and cavalry missions. The preponderance of these missions occur primarily in a terrain data base that duplicates the National Training Center. With special coordination, brigade-level training — using structured training support packages designed for use with the JANUS constructive training model — is also available here at the Home of Armor and Cavalry. The Armor Center isn't resting on its laurels though. We are also developing a number of projects for training soldiers, leaders, and units in the future.

Under the auspices of the Force XXI Training Program — an Army Chief of Staff directed program — the Armor Center is completing development of several training support packages that will benefit armored and mechanized units of our Army. The Battle Staff Training System (BSTS) is a computer-based training system that trains the staff officers, executive officer, and commander at both battalion and brigade echelons. Scheduled for completion this year, BSTS is an individual trainer that trains an officer in his or her individual tasks. The Staff Group Trainer (SGT) is another computer-based trainer that trains staff groups of

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both the battalion and brigade echelons. Containing over 100 training modules, this project will be completed in FY98. The Force XXI Training Program has also developed brigade-level, constructive training packages for use in the Brigade/Battalion Simulation. Called Combined Arms Operations at Brigade Level, Realistically Achieved Through Simulation (COBRAS), this training support package has been used with success by active component brigades at both Ft. Riley, Kansas and Ft. Lewis, Washington. More training support packages are scheduled for development in FY97 and in the future as the Force XXI Training Program continues to push the envelope for training units in the twenty-first century.

Within the next three years, the Armor Center will be the home of the first training facility designed specifically for training armored and mechanized units for Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT). The Mounted Urban Combat Training Site, currently under construction, will permit training armor and mechanized platoons and company teams under realistic conditions in structured, live training exercises to prepare them for combat in built-up areas and restricted terrain. Featuring state-of-the-art targetry and battlefield effects, the Mounted Urban

Combat Training Site will go far to prepare our armored and mech forces for this very difficult mission.

In this unstable and turbulent world, our Army, and particularly our armor and mechanized forces, will continually be called upon to defend our national interests. The bottom line is that when Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles arrive on the scene, our opponents — or potential opponents — understand that the United States of America is committed and, indeed, prepared to act, and to act decisively. However, that is only possible if the soldiers, the leaders, and the units with those Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles are trained to tough, high, and demanding standards. That is our challenge and our priority here at the Home of Armor and Cavalry, today and tomorrow.

Forge the Thunderbolt!

### CLC and SPLC Course Dates

Course dates for the Cavalry Leaders Course (CLC) and the Scout Platoon Leaders Course (SPLC) for FY 97 and FY 98 are as follows:

#### CLC

Course Number	Start Date	End Date
97-02	31 Mar 97	18 Apr 97
97-03	29 May 97	18 Jun 97
97-04	4 Sep 97	24 Sep 97
98-01	3 Nov 97	21 Nov 97
98-02	23 Feb 98	13 Mar 98
98-03	1 Jun 98	19 Jun 98
98-04	20 Jul 98	7 Aug 98

#### SPLC

Course Number	Start Date	End Date
97-05	7 Apr 97	25 Apr 97
97-06	9 Jun 97	27 Jun 97
97-07	14 Jul 97	1 Aug 97
97-08	11 Aug 97	29 Aug 97
97-09	15 Sep 97	3 Oct 97
98-01	20 Oct 97	7 Nov 97
98-02	1 Dec 97	19 Dec 97
98-03	26 Jan 98	13 Feb 98
98-04	23 Feb 98	13 Mar 98
98-05	16 Mar 98	3 Apr 98
98-06	1 Jun 98	19 Jun 98
98-07	6 Jul 98	24 Jul 98
98-08	3 Aug 98	21 Aug 98

**Note:** Report Date - Day prior to Start Date

For further information concerning these courses, please contact Cavalry Branch at (502) 624-6235/3154 or DSN 464-6235/3154.